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BIRCH STEWART KOLASCH & BIRCH PO BOX 747 FALLS CHURCH, VA 22040-0747				MOORE, IAN N
		ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER
		2661		

DATE MAILED: 10/28/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	09/661,203	SHIVJI ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Ian N Moore	2661

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on amendment filed on 9-14-2004.
 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1,2,4,5,8-10,12,13 and 16-29 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) Claim(s) 23 is/are allowed.
 6) Claim(s) 1,2,4,5,8-10,12,13,16-22 and 24-29 is/are rejected.
 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)	4) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)	Paper No(s)/Mail Date. <u>10-20-04</u> .
3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.	5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
	6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

1. New claims 24-29 are added.

Response to Arguments

2. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1,2,4,5,8-10,12,13,16-22, and 24-29 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Double Patenting

The nonstatutory double patenting rejection is based on a judicially created doctrine grounded in public policy (a policy reflected in the statute) so as to prevent the unjustified or improper timewise extension of the "right to exclude" granted by a patent and to prevent possible harassment by multiple assignees. See *In re Goodman*, 11 F.3d 1046, 29 USPQ2d 2010 (Fed. Cir. 1993); *In re Longi*, 759 F.2d 887, 225 USPQ 645 (Fed. Cir. 1985); *In re Van Ornum*, 686 F.2d 937, 214 USPQ 761 (CCPA 1982); *In re Vogel*, 422 F.2d 438, 164 USPQ 619 (CCPA 1970); and, *In re Thorington*, 418 F.2d 528, 163 USPQ 644 (CCPA 1969).

A timely filed terminal disclaimer in compliance with 37 CFR 1.321(c) may be used to overcome an actual or provisional rejection based on a nonstatutory double patenting ground provided the conflicting application or patent is shown to be commonly owned with this application. See 37 CFR 1.130(b).

Effective January 1, 1994, a registered attorney or agent of record may sign a terminal disclaimer. A terminal disclaimer signed by the assignee must fully comply with 37 CFR 3.73(b).

3. Claims 1, 9 and 17 are rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claim 1 of U.S. Patent No. 6,804,248. Although the conflicting claims are not identical, they are not patentably distinct from each other because claims 1, 9 and 17 of the instant application merely broadens the scope of the claim 1 of the Patent by eliminating the elements and their functions of the claims. It has been held that the omission an element and its function is an obvious expedient if the remaining elements perform

the same function as before. *In re Karlson*, 136 USPQ 184 (CCPA). Also note *Ex parte Rainu*, 168 USPQ 375 (Bd.App.1969); omission of a reference element whose function is not needed would be obvious to one skilled in the art.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

4. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

5. Claims 1,2,4,5, 8-10, 12, 13, 16 and 24-26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claim 1 recites, “one or more serial data signals” in line 11. It is unclear whether “one or more serial data signals” in line 11 is the same “one or more serial data signals” in line 7.

Claim 9 is rejected for the same reason as stated above in claim 1.

Claim 4 recites, “the one or more serial data signals” in line 2. It is unclear whether “the one or more serial data signals” refers to “one or more serial data signals” (in line 7, claim 1) or “one or more serial data signals” (in line 11, claim 1).

Claim 12 is rejected for the same reason as stated above in claim 4.

Claims 2-3,5-8, 10, 13, 16, and 24-26 are also rejected since they are depended upon rejected claims 1 and 9.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

6. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

7. Claims 1,4,5,6,8,9,12,13,16-21 and 24-29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Gingell (U.S. 5,497,363).

Regarding Claims 1, 9 and 17, Gingell discloses an apparatus (see FIG. 2, add/drop multiplexer setup (note that FIG. 2 is the combination of FIG. 2A and 2B); or see FIG. 3, a LCX-150 Add/drop multiplexer shelf) comprising:

means for receiving network data in a first format (see FIG. 2; DS1 or DS0s asynchronous format) via a first card (see FIG. 2, DMI-1 or DMI-2, Drop Module Interface; see FIG. 3, DMI card 34,36 or 38; note that each DMI card receives DS1/DS0 data) coupled to a first network (see FIG. 2, the DS0 or DS1 asynchronous network; see col. 4, lines 12-40; col. 7, lines 25-40);

means for converting the data to a synchronous optical network (SONET/SDH) format (see FIG. 2A, SONET formatter 92 of DMI-1 and see FIG. 2A, VT formatter 104/106 of DMI-2; see col. 5, lines 13-50; the received DS1 and DS0 are converted into SONET formatted signal STS1);

means for transmitting the SONET/SDH formatted data (see FIG. 2, STS1 signal) from the first card as one or more serial data signals (see FIG. 2A, each STS1 signal is serially transmitted by the DMI card; see col. 7, lines 35-45) to a cross-connect card (see

FIG. 2A, VSCC 30, cross-connect) via a backplane (see FIG. 3, a backplane of the ADM shelf, see FIG. 2A, the combined system of data buses 26,28,32, 56, 40,42,44 forms the backplane; see col. 4, lines 9-45; note that STS1 signal from each DMI card is serially transmitted to VSCC card via a backplane);

means for performing switching functions on the SONET/SDH formatted data at the cross-connect card (see FIG. 2A, VTCC ASIC 88; see col. 4, lines 1-13; note that SONET formatted data (i.e. VTs and STSs) are switched/cross-connected in the VSCC card);

means for transmitting the SONET/SDH formatted data at the cross-connect card (see FIG. 2A, STS1 signal is transmitted towards high speed east/west OC-3 card by VSCC card; see col. 3, lines 65 to col. 4, lines 5);

means for transmitting the SONET/SDH formatted data as one or more serial data signals to a second card via backplane (see FIG. 2, OC-3 high speed interface 22, 24; see FIG. 3, OC-3 East 22 or West 24 card; see col. 3, lines 60 to col. 4, lines 1, 52-67, see col. 5, lines 1-6; note that STS1 multiplexed signal is serially transmitted toward OC-3 high speed card via a backplane/bus 26 or 28; note that STS1 serial signal contains multiplexed DS1 and DS0 signals), the second card being coupled to a second network (see FIG. 2, OC-3 High speed card connects to high speed synchronous SONET network; see col. 3, lines 44-64);

means for converting the SONET/SDH formatted data to a second format (see FIG. 2, OC3 optical signal format 12, 14; see col. 4, lines 64 to col. 5, lines 6; note that ASICs in the OC-3 card converts between electrical STS-1 and optical signal format OC-3);

means for transmitting the data in the second format to the second network via the second card (see FIG. 2, OC-3 optical signal 12,14 is transmitted via OC-3 high speed card 22,24 to the synchronous high speed SONET network; see col. 3, lines 40-64).

Wherein the backplane utilizes a common signaling scheme to communicatively connect the first card, second card, and cross-connect card (see FIG. 3, a backplane in the ADM shelf houses/connects OC3 cards 22,24, VSCL card 30, and DMI card 34,36,38; see FIG. 2, the data bus 26,32,28, 56, see col. 4, lines 1-20; note that it is inherit that the backplane/combined system of buses must utilize the common signaling/protocol in order perform inter-shelf communication between OC-3, VSCL and DMI cards).

Regarding Claims 4 and 12, Gingell discloses wherein the one or more serial data signals are transmitted via the backplane as a differential pair (see FIG. 2A, two lines on bus 26, 28 or 32; see col. 4, lines 1-27; note that each serial/multiplexed STS-1 signal is transmitted through backplane/combined system of the buses in different/differential pair.)

Regarding Claims 5 and 13, Gingell discloses wherein the data in the second format comprises an aggregation of multiple data signals in the first format (see FIG. 2A, 28 ASYNC DS1 in DMI card 34,36,38; an STS1 signal 32 from each DMI card; ASICs STS-3 (72,76,78,64) in OC-3 card 22; see col. 3, lines 60 to col. 5, lines 13; note that 28 DS1 encapsulated into 28 VT1.5 containers and then multiplexed into an STS-1 in each DMI card. Three STS-1s from three DMI cards are multiplexed into an STS-3, which is converted into

optical format OC-3. Thus, optical signal OC-3 comprises an aggregated/multiplexed DS1 signals).

Regarding Claims 8 and 16, Gingell discloses wherein the SONET/SDH formatted data according to one of STS-1, STS-3, STS-12, STS-48 and STS-192 protocols (see FIG. 2A, STS-3 and STS-1 format; and col. 1, lines 65-67, see col. 4, lines 67).

Regarding claim 18, Gingell discloses wherein the first (see FIG. 2A, DMI card 34 comprising SONET formatter 92 (SFMT ASIC)) and second card each include an application specific integrated circuit (see FIG. 2A, OC-3 card comprising a combined system of ASIC 76,78 and 64) configured to perform parallel-to-serial conversion (see FIG. 2A, ASIC 92 of DMI-1 card multiplexes (i.e. parallel-to-serial conversion) 28 DS1 signals into an SONET format STS-1 signal; and see FIG. 2A, the combined ASIC 76,78,64 of OC-3 card multiplexes three SONET format STS-1 signals into an STS-3/OC-3 signal) and serial-to-parallel conversion on data in the SONET/SDH format (see FIG. 2A, the combined ASIC 76,78,64 of OC-3 card demultiplexes (i.e. serial-to-parallel) an OC-3/STS-3 signals into three SONET format STS-1 signals; and see FIG. 2A, ASIC 92 of DMI-1 card demultiplexes an STS-1 signal into 28 DS1 signals; see col. 4, lines 64 to col. 5, lines 35; see col. 1, lines 44 to col. 2, lines 9).

Regarding claim 19, Gingell further teaches wherein perform parallel-to-serial conversion on the data in the SONET/SDH format (see FIG. 2A, ASIC 92 multiplexes 28

DS1s into an STS1), thereby making the data suitable for transmission to the cross-connect card via the backplane (see FIG. 2A, STS1 via backplane/bus 32 towards VSCC 30; note that 28 DS1 must be multiplexed into an SONET STS-1 in order to transmit towards VSCC via backplane for switching; see col. 4, lines 64 to col. 5, lines 35; see col. 1, lines 44 to col. 2, lines 9).

Regarding claim 20, Gingell further teaches wherein perform serial-to-parallel conversion on the data in the SONET/SDH format (see FIG. 2A, ASIC 92 demultiplexes an STS1 into 28 DS1), the data being received from the cross-connect card via the backplane (see FIG. 2A, an STS1 signal is received from VSCC 30 via backplane/bus 32; see col. 4, lines 64 to col. 5, lines 35; see col. 1, lines 44 to col. 2, lines 9).

Regarding claim 21, Gingell further discloses the cross connect card includes an application specific integrated circuit (ASIC) (see FIG. 2A, VTCC ASIC 88) configured to perform the switching functions on the data in the SONET/SDH format (see col. 5, lines 6-13; VTCC ASIC 88 performs VT/STS1 cross connect switching between lines 26,28, and 32).

Regarding claims 24 and 27, Gingell further discloses wherein the common signaling scheme utilizes differential pair signaling (see FIG. 2A, two lines on bus 26, 28 or 32; see col. 4, lines 1-27; note that each serial/multiplexed STS-1 signal is transmitted through backplane/combined system of the buses in different/differential pair) at a predetermined

frequency (note that since ASIC 92, 88, 64 process the STS-1 signal rate (i.e. electrical format, 51.84 Mb/s), it is inherent that they must be operate in predefined STS-1 frequency 51 MHz).

Regarding claims 25 and 28, Gingell further discloses wherein the backplane includes a plurality of card slots (see FIG. 3, card slots in ADM shelf 50), the first and second cards respective ones of the plurality of card slots (see FIG. OC3 cards are plugged into the high-speed slots; and DMI being plugged into DMI slots; see col. 5, lines 59 to col. 6, lines 4).

Regarding claims 26 and 29, Gingell further discloses plugging a third card (see FIG. 2B, DMI-2 38; see FIG. 3, DMI card for drop 3) into an used one of the plurality of card slots (see FIG. 3, DMI-2 card is plug into unused drop 3 slot), the third card being coupled to a third network (see FIG. 2, DMI-2 38 is connected to DS0 network) and

using the cross-connect card to perform switching functions on data to be transmitted (see FIG. 2A, VSCC 30 also performs cross connection for STS1 signal received from DMI-2 36) between the third network (see FIG. 2A, DS0 network) and at least one of the first and second networks (see FIG. 2A, OC-3 high speed optical network); see col. 20-50; see col. 5, lines 36 to col. 6, lines 5).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

8. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

9. Claims 2 and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gingell in view of Sahlman (U.S. 6,693,902).

Regarding claim 2 and 10, Gingell discloses wherein performing switching functions on the SONET/SDH formatted data comprises performing time switching (see col. 5, line 5-12; see col. 9, lines 39-65; note that cross connect between SONET STS1s is performed according to cross connecting or interchanging time slots).

Gingell does not explicitly disclose space switching.

However, the above-mentioned claimed limitations are taught by Sahlman. In particular, Sahlman teaches wherein performing switching functions (see FIG. 1, cross connect switch) on the SONET/SDH formatted data (see FIG. 1, STM-1 signals) comprises performing time switching (see FIG. 1 time switches T) and space switching (see FIG. 1, Space Switch S; see col. 4, line 62 to col. 5, lines 55).

In view of this, having the system of Gingell and then given the teaching of Sahlman, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the system of Gingell, by providing a time and space switching, as taught by Sahlman. The motivation to combine is to obtain the advantages/benefits taught by Sahlman since Sahlman states at col. 2, line 40-60 that such modification would reduce the number of required space switch modules in large cross connects which will reduce the need for the quadric expanding.

10. Claim 22 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gingell in view of Upp (U.S. 5,040,170).

Regarding claim 22, Gingell discloses wherein the cross-connect card includes a first application specific integrated circuit (ASIC) (see FIG. 2A, VTCC ASIC 88) the first circuit being configured to perform conversion on data in the SONET/SDH format (see col. 5, lines 6-13; VTCC ASIC 88 performs VT/STS1 cross connect switching between lines 26,28, and 32 in the STS1 format).

Gingell does not explicitly disclose a first circuit (see Upp FIG. 1, VTX, 900) being configured to perform parallel-to-serial conversion (see Upp FIG. 1, VTX 900 is designed/configured to receive parallel inputs from SBI 600 and transmitted into a serial output towards WBX 900 in SONET format) and serial-to-parallel conversion (see Upp FIG. 1; VTX 900 is designed/configured to receive a serial input from WBX and transmitted into the parallel outputs toward SBI 600 in SONET format); and

the second application specific integrated circuit (ASIC) (see Upp col. 15, lines 35-51; WBX includes a application specific (i.e. CMOS) integrated circuit) being configured to perform parallel-to-serial conversion (see Upp FIG. 1, WBX 900 is designed/configured to receive the parallel inputs from SPT 400 (i.e. STS-1) and transmitted a serial output towards VTX in SONET format) and serial-to-parallel conversion on data in the SONET/SDH format (see Upp FIG. 1, WBX 900 is designed/configured to receive a serial input from VTX and transmitted the parallel outputs toward SPT 400 (i.e. STS-1) in SONET format); see col. 7, lines 21-60.

However, the above-mentioned claimed limitations are taught by Upp. In view of this, having the system of Gingell and then given the teaching of Upp, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the system of Gingell, by providing a first VTX circuit and second WBX integrated circuit for the cross connect/switch matrix to convert between serial and parallel SONET data, as taught by Upp. The motivation to combine is to obtain the advantages/benefits taught by Upp since Upp states at col. 7, line 38-60 that such modification would provide wide band cross-connect switching and virtual tributary cross-connect switching capabilities in the network and provide simultaneous switching of digital signals having different data rates.

Allowable Subject Matter

11. Claim 23 is allowed.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ian N Moore whose telephone number is 571-272-3085. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F: 9-5.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ken Vanderpuye can be reached on 571-272-3078. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

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